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THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF

NORTHAM

FOR THE YEAR

1961

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Annual Report, 1961

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA—4,391 acres.

POPULATION—Estimated residents 6,460.

Number of inhabited houses at end of 1961 according to the rate books 2,384.

Rateable value, £84,020.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £333.

Social and Physical Conditions.

The District is divided into four wards for the purpose of election to the Urban Council. Appledore returning 5 members, Northam 4, Westward Ho ! 4, and Orchard Hill 3.

Appledore has ship building and repairing yards, which employ a large number of hands, and is a favourite sea fishing centre. Northam, Westward Ho ! and Orchard Hill wards are chiefly residential, Westward Ho ! being a popular seaside resort. Sand Yachts are in use on the sands at Westward Ho !

The well-known championship links of the Royal North Devon Golf Club are situated on Northam Burrows, and attract a large number of visitors during the year.

Under the name of Kipling Tors, a hillside overlooking Bideford Bay and situated in the south-western area of Westward Ho ! has recently been purchased as part of a Kipling Memorial and handed over to the National Trust. This land is about 18 acres in extent, and is a welcome addition to the free beauties of the district.

2.—VITAL STATISTICS IN 1961.

1.	Live Births number	66
	Rate per 1000 population	10.5
2.	Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births	13.2
3.	Still-births number	0
	Rate per 1000 total live and still-births	0
4.	Total Live and Still-births	66.0
5.	Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	0
6.	Infant Mortality Rates	
	Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	Nil
	Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	Nil
	Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil
7.	Noe-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	Nil
8.	Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	Nil
9.	Perintal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still-births)	Nil
10.	Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	
	Number of deaths	Nil
	Rate per 1000 total live and still-births	Nil

Births and Birth Rate.

The total live births in the District was 66, of whom 35 were boys and 31 girls.

The live birth rate per 1,000 of the population was 10.5 and that for England and Wales 17.4.

Deaths and Death Rate.

The total deaths were 100 (50 males and 50 females), 14 males and 27 females were over 80 years of age, and 1 male and 4 females were over 90 years of age. The death rate per 1,000 of the population was 15.4 and that for England and Wales 12.0

The following Table gives the cause of death in the District during 1961.

	CAUSES	Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—
4.	Diptheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm stomac	1	—
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	4
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
16.	Diabetes	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous systm	4	8
18.	Coronary disease angina	11	7
19.	Hypertension, with heart disease	—	—
20.	Other heart disease	6	20
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	—
22.	Influenza	—	—
23.	Pneumonia	4	1
24.	Bronchitis	2	1
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomac and duodenuem	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	5	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	1	—
32.	Other defined and illdefined diseases	2	3
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	1	—
34.	All other accidents	2	2
35.	Suicide	1	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—
	ALL CAUSES	50	50

There were no deaths from Measles, or other infectious diseases of children.

The number of people on the Tuberculosis Register on 31.12.1961 was 18.

3.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(1)—Public Health Officers of the Authority.

There are two Public Health Officers of the Council—the Medical Officer of Health, and the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

(2)—Nursing Arrangements in Area.

The nursing arrangements are covered by two fully qualified Nurses who also act as Midwives. One is responsible for Appledore and Westward Ho !, Buckleigh and part of Northam, and the other for part of Northam with her duties in Bideford. Their work is of a high standard, and there is full co-operation with the General Practitioners of the district. The Home Nursing Service does much to relieve the pressure on the Hospitals.

(3)—Hospitals.

The District is provided for by the Bideford and District Hospital. The Hospital is available for Medical and Surgical cases and contains 51 beds, with special services available at clinics held in the Hospital.

The Isolation Hospital, now called The Kingsley Hospital, situated at East-the-Water, Bideford provides for infectious cases from the whole of North Devon.

The Torridge Hospital, situated in Meddon Street, Bideford provides hospital care for geriatic and chronic medical patients. It is very well equipped with modern appliances. At the moment it provides 70 beds, the rest of the building being under reconstruction and modernisation. When completed it is hoped to increase the number of beds to 104. Extensive reconstruction and modernisation was carried out during 1961 and further work is still in progress.

(4)—Ambulances.

The Ambulance Service is under the control of the National Health Service. Two Motor Ambulances are kept for Bideford and District for non-infectious cases and an Ambulance is kept at the Isolation Hospital for the use of cases using that Hospital.

(5)—Clinics and Treatment Centres.

A treatment centre for Venereal Disease and a Tuberculosis Dispensary are available at Barnstaple for Northam District, Tuberculous patients are admitted to Hawley and Hawkmoor Sanatoria. The treatment of Tuberculous patients is controlled by the Tuberculous officer at Barnstaple who conducts a comprehensive follow up scheme for all patients and contacts.

An orthopaedic clinic is held at Bideford Hospital. There is one Resident Children's Nursery in the District.

(6)—Ante-natal and Post-natal Care.

Ante-natal and post-natal clinics are conducted by each General Practitioner in the area in co-operation with the midwives. Specialist facilities are available at Barnstaple.

(7)—**Blind Persons.**

The number of registered blind persons in Northam U.D.C. is 10. Cause of disability: Cataract, 4; Glaucoma, 1; Optic Atrophy, 1; and other causes 4. There were no cases of Opthalmia neonatorum notified during 1961.

4.—PREVENTION AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 64 cases of Measles and 1 case of Scarlet Fever and one case of Influenzal Pneumonia were notified.

Vaccination against Smallpox and immunisation against Diptheria and Whooping Cough, are carried out by the General Practitioners of the area, and also at the Welfare Centres and School Clinics.

Poliomyelitis innoculation is carried out under the Devon County Council Scheme.

The cleasing and disinfection of infected rooms is carried out by the Public Health Inspector, and in cases where the bedding of necessitous cases has to be destroyed, the Council gives reasonable compensation.

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1935).

5.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Northam Water Supply.

The water undertaking of the Northam U.D.C. was taken over by the North Devon Water Board on April 1st, 1958, and services continued by them.

Drainage.

Northam and Westward Ho ! are served by main drainage which discharges to a sea outfall at Rocks Nose, Westward Ho ! which is covered at low water. The only river to which sewers discharge is tidal and there are a number of outfalls serving Appledore, West Appledore and Part of Orchard Hill.

(a) During the year the Public Health Inspector made numerous inspections of a sanitary nature. Complaints of nuisance were all remedied after serving of informal notices.

(b) There are four Elementary Schools in the District. All were inspected and found to be in a satisfactory condition.

6.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 10 registered dairymen in the District. Samples of milk were taken for examination and analysis.

Any samples which failed to pass tests were reported on, and further samples in each case passed as satisfactory.

Bakehouses.

There are 6 Bakehouses in the District. All were inspected and found satisfactory.

Slaughterhouses.

There are 2 slaughterhouses licensed in the district, but slaughtering has been carried out in one premises only. All carcases are inspected after notice.

7.—HOUSING.

There were 10 new Council houses or bungalows completed in the district in 1961, 44 were built by private enterprise.

Several houses were inspected under the Housing Acts or Public Health regulations. There was no action taken under statutory powers during the year. Disinfection of rooms was carried out where necessary.

Polypress Ltd., Printers, Bideford